

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

**March 2026  
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**[www.acnb-church.org](http://www.acnb-church.org)**

# The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

*Our vision: To be channels of God's love in the world*

## Ministry Team

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The office is staffed 9 - 12 noon, Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

*Please let us know if you have any news of those who are sick, in trouble, leaving or about to arrive.*

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*Cheques should be made payable to ACNB PCC*

## **DEADLINE:**

**The third Friday of each calendar month.**

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles. Note that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Council. Advertisements in this publication do not carry the endorsement of the editor or the Parochial Church Council.

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*Dear Friends*

"March brings breezes loud and shrill,  
To stir the dancing daffodil." - *William Wordsworth*

I am writing this on 1<sup>st</sup> March, St. David's Day and as the daffodil is considered the national flower of Wales it is very fitting to have a quote from William Wordsworth. This morning, I attended the service at St. John the Baptist Church where there was a 'host, of golden daffodils' in the churchyard. (See photo p.3).

March is a funny old month. It can't quite make up its mind. One day you're squinting into unexpected sunshine, full of good intentions about the garden. The next you're back in your winter coat, being rained on sideways. It's still incredibly wet and very muddy in places and the roads are constantly being dug up by the utility companies and nothing looks tidy or dry!

But it is the time of the year to think about planting seeds, some will be started indoors whilst others are tough enough to be sown directly into the still cold soil. Seeds are ready with their secret of life; each seed and every seed is a mystery that holds the miracle of the power of life. Seeds are gifts from the past that grow a path to the future. They provide nourishment and beauty. Their germination reminds us that there is life in the darkness and life will always grow toward the light. That is what we are reminded of as Easter approaches, and we get ready to welcome the risen Christ.

As we walk towards that light may our boots be muddy, our hearts be hopeful, and God be close beside us.

*With Love Sally*



# Weekly service pattern

## Sunday Services

	All Saints	St Mark	St Denys	St John
1st Sunday	11:00 Messy Church	09:30 Tidy Church	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	11:00 Communion or Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion	09:30 informal Morning Prayer	
3rd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion or Morning prayer	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	
4th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		
5th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		

## Midweek Services

When	Where	What
Tuesday, 10:30	St Mark, Ampfield	Small group Communion in St Mark's room, followed by coffee
Wednesday, 19:00	All Saints, North Baddesley	Communion in a peaceful candle lit space in the midst of your busy week



*Need a break from the hurly burly of life? St. Mark's is open daily from 10am - 4pm*

# Easter Services and events



## Wednesday 11th March

Lent Lunch 12—2pm St. Mark's

## Palm Sunday (29th March)

Services as usual for 5th Sunday of the month

## Holy week

**Tuesday 10:30 at St Mark:**

**midweek Communion service as usual**

Wednesday: Warm Space, Digital Hub and midweek Communion as usual

## Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

10:00 **Welcome Café** as usual

19:30 **St. Mark's Maundy Thursday Communion**  
remembering the Last Supper and the garden of Gethsemane

## Good Friday (3rd April)

10am North Baddesley Walk of Witness, starting at the precinct

14:00 St. John the Baptist N Baddesley

'An hour before the Cross' service

## Easter Day (5th April)

07:00 Dawn Communion at St Denys - outside so come dressed for the weather

**09:30 All age Easter Worship at St Mark**

11:00 All age Communion at All Saints

# Parish News

## Vicar Vacancy Update

Unfortunately, despite tremendous effort from everyone involved, the original deadlines for the Parish Profile proved to be unachievable. The Bishop and her support team were unable to process and make suggestions within the time frame allotted. We are now working to an alternative schedule which means that interviews will be held in May.

This is very disappointing after all our hard work, but it does give the editing team the opportunity to really polish the final product and to respond fully to all the suggestions and modifications the first Parish Profile solicited. This will be an advantage as the market for new vicars is highly competitive.

Many thanks to all who contributed towards the Parish Profile for your full and informative input. Please continue to pray for help and support.

**Karen**



The newly cleared area in front of the church room

# Parish News

## Churchyard Working Party

Half a dozen of us met in February to clear the glade outside St Mark's Room door. We've reclaimed a sizable area that had been taken over



by rhododendrons and a mass of tangled brambles, which will give us extra space for the fete in the summer. We've also cleared rhododendrons from near the car



park, opening up the view across the churchyard. The team sampled my new (first ever!) recipe for flapjack which was well received at our first session, and the cupcakes at the second weren't bad either! That's probably it for the summer



because of bird nesting, but we've generated a mass of cuttings so a bonfire is planned. If you fancy joining us for the bonfire or in the autumn, drop me a line. It's a pleasant way to help keep our churchyard looking beautiful, and the rewards i.e. cake are usually bountiful!

**Phil**





**Join us for Lent Lunch  
at  
St Mark's Ampfield**

**Wednesday 11th March**

*We serve a light lunch of home made soup,  
bread & cheese and fruit*

*Come any time between 12noon and 2pm  
St. Mark's Room*

*Donations will go to Romsey Foodbank and  
The Winchester Beacon (Night Shelter)*

**Just turn up, or for more details phone  
Chris: 01794 367104**

# Parish News

## Ampfield

### Lent Lunch on Ash Wednesday in St. Mark's Room

The lunch was a great success and raised £115.00 for the Romsey Foodbank and Winchester Night Shelter. Thanks to Adrienne, Stella, Pam, Ron, Jennie, Teresa, Elizabeth and Phil for their hard work and delicious soups: carrot and coriander, broccoli and stilton and parsnip and apple. Thanks also for donations of bread and all the extras. The next lunch will be on:



*Wednesday 11th March 12 - 2pm  
Just turn up - no need to book*

### St. Mark's stall at the Ampfield Market

#### Check out that summer wardrobe!

At February's market we made a stunning £108.30 - thank you all for your wonderful support. For April only we plan to sell pre-loved clothes again. Now's the time to get those summer clothes out of storage! Chris and Pam will be happy to collect any you wish to donate.

### Church Cleaning

If anyone would like to help with cleaning the Church (taking it in turns on our monthly rota) that would be very helpful. It is best to do this in pairs to be safe, and does not take very long to Hoover, sweep, and dust! If you would like to offer or chat about this please contact Jennie Edwards (Tel: 02380 365041; Email: [jenniee@acnb-church.org](mailto:jenniee@acnb-church.org)).

Thank you so much.

**Jennie**

# Parish News

## Ampfield

### Friends of St. Mark's Fun Wine Tasting Evening

The Friends of St. Marks invite you to this very popular evening on Friday 27th March 7.30 pm in St. Mark's room.



Tickets are £15 each including nibbles. It is an informal wine tasting event exploring the delights of half a dozen wines. No experience necessary, enjoy getting to know some of the wines you like to drink. To book tickets please use [this link](#)

Stephen

### Minnows

The Minnows has had another successful month with St Mark's Room full of babies and toddlers and a happy buzz in the air. We celebrated our 1st birthday at the end of February with balloons which were very popular with the toddlers, and cake which went down well with the grown ups!



### Save the date: St. Mark's Fete Saturday 13th June

Planning is underway and the next meeting is Thursday 9th April in St. Mark's room.

Phil

**Friends of St. Marks**



# **Invite you to A Fun Wine Tasting Evening**

**St. Mark's Church Room, Ampfield**

**SO51 9BU**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 pm**

**Tickets £15  
including nibbles**



**Wine Raffle**



**Learn about  
the wines  
you prefer!**



<https://bit.ly/4aEqX57>



**or call 07799435715**

**Registered Charity Number: 1214465**

## Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. In what year did inset days first begin in schools? [A] 1988 [B] 1989 [C] 1990
2. Mohican, Beehive and Mullet are types of what?
3. Which Volcano destroyed the City of Pompeii in AD79?
4. What colour is Marge Simpson's hair?
5. Which Parisian Cathedral was home to Quasimodo?
6. Which London building is home to the Beefeaters?
7. Which actress Played Ron Weasley's Mum in The Harry Potter Series of films?
8. Released in 1995, what was the first feature-length film created using computer generated imagery?
9. What word goes after 'Dandelion and' in the name of the drink?
10. Which P is a cloak with a hole in the top where the head goes through?



Answers on p. 19

# Parish News



We are looking forward to our two Forest Church sessions on

**Sunday 22nd March and 24th May, 3 - 4pm,**  
at St Mark's.

We will be doing activities that help us explore our faith through the nature around us.

The Theme for the next Forest Church is New Life, amongst the activities for everyone to join in there will be a Scavenger Hunt and planting Sunflower seeds!

# Parish News

## ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY  
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP!



TERM TIME THURSDAYS

9.30 - 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



# Thought for the Month

## ‘Oldness’

by Paul Oliver

I look at old people, I am one but still like to think I am younger than them when I'm not. Sometimes I have a perception which I know is wrong and that I don't really believe, that old people have lost their relevance, that their views are in the past and not worth considering. It's not what I believe but sometimes I can't stop thinking it. Why?

Perhaps it's me and my own problems dealing with ageing. Am I still relevant? Have my kids & their generation left me behind to totter around in a retirement absent from the real world of those still creating lives, families, businesses & careers for themselves, as they enjoy social & sporting lives I can barely recall I once enjoyed for myself? They all walk much faster than me. It used to be the other way around with me leaving others in my wake. I can't even create a ripple let alone a wake these days. I can't even stay awake through Countdown.

Yet I am happy to wake up each morning, look forward to the day, do my exercises before breakfast & take on what the day has in store. I'm lucky to be alive & fit enough to enjoy life, but still feel a little jealous of the lives of my children because they are having the life I once enjoyed and are doing it better. That is where the consolation and reward is. I shouldn't be envious, I should take comfort and pride in how well they have turned out, what wonderful people they are and of course I do. However, there's an element of wanting my own cake & eating it. Most of my cake is long gone and what remains is as stale & crusty as I am. Are only crumbs left or is there another slice of life yet to be enjoyed? I certainly hope so.

So here I am as the head of the family, supposedly wise and setting an example for others to follow, perhaps I have. I certainly feel an obligation to do so, to be here, to support & encourage. I blame my Dad for setting an example I could never match, but I still try to do the same for my kids. It's a great life really and I am determined to keep it so, it's been awesome. I have been lucky beyond belief which I will never take for granted. Can I do it all over again please?

# Nature Nurtures

by Lyn Smith

The world is grey, unyielding  
Surrounds me like a fog, repressive  
Silent people heads down, umbrellas up  
The dominant sky glares above  
Unending rain, insistent and unceasing  
Nowhere to go, drains all full  
Fields flooded, roads awash and risky  
The garden meets the pond, looks the same  
My eye catches small white stitches  
In a watery tapestry of green  
Snowdrops, they give my heart a sudden leap  
A sign of hope in this depressing world  
I begin a wet but thorough search  
Buds on clematis, sprouts on daffs  
And small green snouts that could be anything  
Like a jolt of lightning, the world has changed  
Spring's not here yet, but nearly



# What's on in the Parish every week

## St. Mark's

### St. Mark's Minnows

**Thursdays in termtime St. Mark's Room 9.30 - 11am**

All Welcome! Kettle's on from 9.15.

### St. Mark's Fridge Magnets and cards

Jennie has made cards and fridge magnets with a picture of Ampfield Church - £1.50 for a card, or £5 for 4 cards, and £2 for a fridge magnet. Available to buy at Ampfield Market or in church.



## All Saints

### Digital Hub - All Saints: Wednesdays 10.30am - 12 noon

We have expanded Wednesday mornings to include some support for those who have laptops, tablets or phones and need a little extra help on how to use them.

### Social Hub - Wednesdays at All Saints 10am - 12 noon

Have a go at some crafts, do jigsaws or just relax with a book that has been borrowed from the Community Library (also open on a Wednesday morning) or just sit and chat. Free drinks and biscuits and sometimes other treats!

### Welcome Cafe at All Saints Thursdays at 10am

The café is for any and everyone in the community, we particularly welcome those who find themselves lonely or bereaved.

### Sunshine Saints

#### **Fri: 10:00am - 11.30am at All Saints (term-time only)**

Sunshine Saints is the toddler and baby group. It is an opportunity for the children to have fun playing together. There are snacks for the children and tea and coffee for those who accompany them, suggested donation: £2.

### Pilgrims

Please note that there will be no **Pilgrims' session** at All Saints on Wed 11th March; it will be on as usual on Wed 25th March.

# What's on in the Parish every month

## St. Mark's

### Friends for Lunch

please contact Pam on : Tel. 02380 411146 or  
Email - [pammorf@virginmedia.com](mailto:pammorf@virginmedia.com) to book your  
place.



### St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market

If you have anything to donate, please contact Chris on 01794 367104.  
We are happy to collect. Thank you for your support!

Pam and Chris

### Pilgrim Course:

#### Saturday 14th March

This is an opportunity to ask questions about faith. Our ethos is that we are exploring together, and there are no wrong answers - all are welcome to this relaxed and friendly group. We continue to meet in St. Marks church room monthly with the next session being Saturday 14th March at 10am. The Pilgrim groups are always accompanied by cake!

#### Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz

1. 1988
2. Hairstyles
3. Vesuvius
4. Blue
5. Notre Dame
6. Tower of London
7. Julie Walters
8. Toy Story
9. Burdock
10. Poncho

**The  
Ampfield  
Village Hall  
31<sup>st</sup> Annual General  
Meeting**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
at 7.00pm in the Committee Room**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2025.
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairmans Report  
Treasurers Financial Report and Accounts.  
Dec 2024 – Dec 2025
6. Composition of the Management Committee
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of the next meeting

**All are welcome to attend**

**A business meeting will follow the AGM**



**Julie Trotter's Art Class  
takes place on  
Thursday afternoons  
from 2-4pm at the  
Village Hall**



**The  
Ampfield Market**  
**(Established in 2000, now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year !)**

**will take place  
on  
Saturday 7th March  
From 10am to 12noon  
in Ampfield Village Hall  
(SO51 9BJ)**

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell fresh fruit and veg supplied by Hansards in Awbridge and delicious bread and cakes supplied by Matts Bakery. Honey, preserves, plants and fresh flowers. Cards, wrapping paper and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Clothes, toys and puzzles. Bric a brac, seasonal treats and much, much more !

**We serve fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of  
cakes throughout the morning.  
Come along with friends and family to enjoy this  
special monthly community event.**

Parking and admission are always FREE.

All proceeds support the Village Hall. Registered charity no. 1057353  
Contact Julie on 023 80254587 or [Julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk) for table  
bookings etc.

**Next date. Saturday April 4th 2026**

# The Morley's Green Community Orchard Project

TVBC in collaboration with the Rural England Prosperity Fund is generously offering Parish Councils the opportunity to plant an orchard and a wild flower meadow. We have accepted their kind offer of 10 fruit trees and wild flowers seeds, which will be planted to the rear of the allotments at Morley's Green sometime in early March.

There will be a mix of apple, pear and plum tree varieties including Coxes Orange Pippin, James Grieve, Egremont Russet, Concorde, Conference Pear and Victoria Plum. All sundries for planting will also be provided. A single interpretation panel giving details on the species location and wildlife benefit will be located on the site.

This exciting project should provide a very attractive community space for everyone in Ampfield to enjoy. If any of the residents would like to volunteer their help with the ongoing care and maintenance of the trees and wild flower meadow I would be delighted to hear from them.

**Julie Trotter**

## Elm Trees at Morley's Green

Ampfield Parish Council has recently received twelve free standard disease resistant elm trees from the Hampshire Forest Partnership. These trees have been planted around the edge of Morleys Green.

**Chris Ling**

## Parish Council Precept for 2026/27

The Parish Council has set a precept of £49,159.96 for the financial year 2026/27. This is an increase of 4.92% on the precept for the current year. Because of an increase in the number of properties in the parish, it is estimated that the charge per property will reduce.

**Bryan Nanson**

**SUPPORTING THE MOUNTBATTEN HOSPICE – COME & JOIN US! \***

## **Ampfield Village Hall**

### **?? QUIZ NIGHT ??**

**Come & join us at the ever-popular friendly  
& fun-filled Ampfield Village Hall Quiz Night.**

**By demand, the Ampfield Quizmasters are back!**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. March 2026 at 7.30pm  
(Doors open at 7pm)**

**Come as a team of up to 6, or in smaller numbers and teams will be  
made up on the night.**

**A bar will be available and ‘bar snacks’ will be put on your tables. If you wish,  
please bring along your own picnic supper to enjoy during the interval or  
throughout the evening.**

**Cost £5 per person inc. ‘bar’ snacks**

**BAR Prizes for winning table. CHARITY RAFFLE\***

**Pay on the evening but please book your place or a table first.**

**Contact: Martin Hatley 07970 501050**

**Or email: [info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk)**

### **BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW**

**\*Entrance money will go to the Village Hall Funds – a registered charity No.  
1057353**

**BUT all proceeds from the raffle and mini auction will be donated, by popular  
request, to**

**‘THE (COUNTESS) MOUNTBATTEN HAMPSHIRE CHARITY’**

**so that enhanced palliative and specialist care and support can continue to  
be provided for those with a life limiting illness  
as well as physical, emotional and spiritual support for their families.**

# WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL SPRING 2026 - JOIN IN ONE!

## MONDAYS

**PILATES WITH HANNAH** – Two sessions in the morning. **9.15am to 10.20am & 10.30am to 11.35am**. Mixed ability mat class. Details at [www.pilateswithaplomb.com](http://www.pilateswithaplomb.com)

**AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL** regularly meet on a Monday evening for their ordinary meetings, planning meetings and other meetings.

**NB. NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS [www.ampfieldparish.gov.uk](http://www.ampfieldparish.gov.uk)**

## TUESDAYS

**AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB** is a very popular club playing friendly duplicate bridge. It meets every Tuesday evening (except at Xmas time) from 7pm to 10pm. If you require a partner or want more information contact Mel Cook on 07889 689302 or email [melcook@sky.com](mailto:melcook@sky.com) . New members always welcome.

## WEDNESDAYS

**NEW CLASS! YOGA MORNING with Yoga by Gaynor** – **10.00 to 11am** for details see Friday below

**1<sup>st</sup> AMPFIELD BROWNIES meet** every Wed. evening during term time. 6pm to 7.30pm Tel. Sue Moore 01794 523947

**ROMSEY MODELLERS** Build model kits? Want to get more from your hobby? Join this club on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wed. of each month 8pm to 10pm.

[www.romseymodellers.co.uk](http://www.romseymodellers.co.uk)

## THURSDAYS

**[NB. YOGA with Diana Craven. – Sadly, from March this class will no longer take place in Ampfield.]**

**AMPFIELD ART GROUP** meets Thurs. afternoons during term time 2pm to 4pm. Very friendly atmosphere. Beginners and those wishing to develop their skills welcome. Contact email: [Julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk)

**PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOMB - TWO SESSIONS. 6.15 to 7.20pm (improvers and Intermediate) & EXTRA CLASS: 7.30 to 8.35pm (Beginners).** Mat classes. For details: see Monday above.

## FRIDAYS

### **YOGA ON FRIDAY MORNINGS with YogaByGaynor 9.30 to 10.30am**

All levels, Gentle, Vinyasa Flow Yoga. All welcome. Facebook:

@yogaByGaynor OR Email: [yogabygaynor@yahoo.com](mailto:yogabygaynor@yahoo.com)

## SATURDAYS

**VILLAGE MARKET (IN ITS 26<sup>th</sup> YEAR!)** First Saturday of every month 10-12noon (except Jan. and Aug.). Entry free. Regularly on sale are fresh bread, rolls, jams, chutneys and pickles, cakes, plants and fresh flowers, cards, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery, toys, seasonal surprises, bric a brac etc. Fresh coffee and delicious cakes are served all morning in the Garden Room. Interested in renting a table? Ring Julie on 02380 254587 or email [Julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk). This is a great event to meet up with people.

**CARD MAKING WORKSHOP WITH VANESSA.** A range of crafts taught, meets monthly, normally on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 4pm. A very relaxed day and delicious coffee provided. Details from Vanessa 01794 515490 or email [Ampfieldcards@gmail.com](mailto:Ampfieldcards@gmail.com) .

## SUNDAYS

**SEWING SUNDAYS WITH MICHELLE.** Small group of crafters, who meet once a month on a Sunday. Open to all who want to bring along their dress-making, knitting or other textile projects. If interested email Michelle [michellewaters@gmail.com](mailto:michellewaters@gmail.com) Friendly group, offers advice, help pinning and fitting toiles + natter & cuppa

**WEEKENDS: THE ORTHODOX PARISH OF St. SILOUAN of Mt. ATHOS** now normally hold their services here **every 1st weekend of the month.** For details see their **new** website [www.silouan-soton.org](http://www.silouan-soton.org) or ring 07518 417052 (English & Russian). A friendly non-political church. All welcome!

*For general enquiries and hall bookings tel. Martin Hatley 07970 501050  
Or visit our website: [www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk) Or E mail:  
[info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk)*

**DIARY DATES:** *The next POPULAR FUN QUIZ NIGHT is on FRIDAY MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm. in the Village Hall £5 per entrant Inc. bar snacks. Book a place or table now & pay on the night. By request, this time the raffle/auction will be in aid of The (Countess) Mountbatten Hospice Charity.*

# A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Loving God,

We remember with gratitude the mothers, grandmothers, and all who have cared for us with patience, kindness, and strength.

We pray for those who find this day difficult - for those who grieve, for those separated from loved ones, and for those whose longing for family remains unfulfilled. May they know

Your comfort and peace.

Bless all who mother in different ways - through family, friendship, community, and compassion.

Fill them with renewed strength, joy in their giving, and the assurance that their love makes a difference.

**Amen**



# CONTRIBUTIONS and CONTENT

## DONATIONS :

Sort code: 82 12 08 Account No: 40239302  
Account Name: ACNB PCC / Reference: Magazine

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Please send to: Phil Budden Tel: 07799 435 715  
Email: [philb@acnb-church.org](mailto:philb@acnb-church.org)

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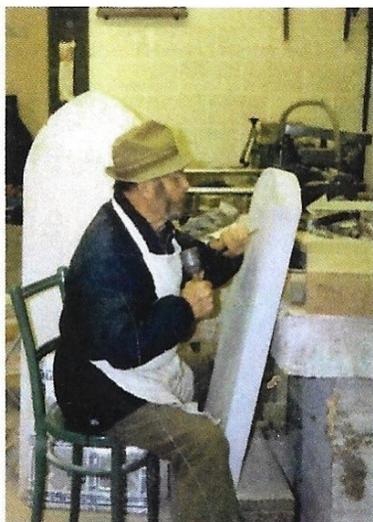
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## Talk to us

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- Free to phone 116 123

**Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)**

- Visit us: 13 Upper High Street, Winchester SO23 8UT



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